

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A device for clamping and ablating cardiac tissue comprising:

*Subj* a first handle member;

a second handle member;

first and second mating curved jaw members associated with the first and second handle members, respectively, the jaw members being movable by the handle members between a first open position and a second clamped position;

a first elongated electrode extending along the first jaw member;

a second elongated electrode extending along the second jaw member;

the first and second electrodes being adapted to be connected to an RF energy source so that, when activated, the first and second electrodes are of opposite polarity.

*sel* 2. The device of claim 1 wherein the electrodes are between approximately 3 to 8 cm when in length and approximately 0.12 to 0.6 mm in width.

3. The device of claim 1 wherein the electrodes comprise gold-plated copper.

*Subj* 4. A tissue grasping apparatus comprising:

first and second grasping jaws, the grasping jaws being relatively moveable between open and closed positions; each jaw

including an elongated electrode and a curved clamping surface in face-to-face relation with the electrode and curved clamping surface of the other jaw; the curved clamping surfaces of the jaws comprising an insulating material and the face-to-face electrodes being of opposite polarity and connectible to a power source for providing an electrical current between the electrodes.

*Spec 1*

5. The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the parallel grasping jaws spaced apart between approximately 3 to 8 cm in length and approximately 0.12 to 0.6 mm in width.

6. The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the electrodes comprise gold-plated copper.

A handwritten signature consisting of stylized, cursive letters, possibly 'A', 'B', and 'C', enclosed within a roughly triangular outline.